

## About Scams

Be very cautious about offers to buy items you have posted on the internet. Recent scams revolve around an over payment for the advertised item. The scam is that the check they send is made out for more than the asking price. The check is not legitimate however the seller won't know that until the bank informs them that it has bounced. By then the seller has sent the item and the "change" to the scammer.

If you are not sure how to identify a scam, please send us the email <weavershand@gmail.com> and we will give you our opinion.

What to watch for:

- Usually there is poor grammar, spelling and punctuation; but sometimes it is perfect
- They often don't ask any questions about the item for sale. They will ask what the final cost is, they have no interest in shipping costs and don't offer to pick it up themselves.
- Almost never from our region, often from a foreign country.
- They will sometimes offer personal information to gain the seller's sympathy.
- Should you respond to them, the next step will be to involve you in an overpayment scheme. Often this involves the buyer sending a cashier's check for the price of the item plus "shipping" and sometimes other amounts for commissions, taxes, and other trumped up costs; some costs have nothing to do with the item itself. They then want the seller to deposit the check and immediately write a check for the amount of "overpayment". Of course, what happens is that the check is not good and the seller is out the money including any overdraft charges from their bank, and the crook has the seller's money and perhaps the seller's goods.

From the ANWG website:

You are under no obligation to respond to anyone and we strongly recommend ignoring these inquiries.

- Under all circumstances, screen potential buyers before agreeing to anything.
- Ask questions of the buyer to confirm a valid interest in and knowledge about your item.
- If you believe you have a valid offer, then we recommend a telephone conversation to finalize the offer and agree on how to ship or transport the item.
- Do not give out personal information to a complete stranger; request the buyer to give you her/his telephone number so you can make the call. If a buyer will not give you a telephone number, do not make further contact.
- If you are selling across international boundaries, you should consult your bank about the best method to safely transact a sale.
- For more information about this type of scam and scams in general, visit Scambusters: <https://www.scambusters.org/overpayment.html>